
DIGEST

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LeBas

HB No. 517

Abstract: Provides protection for individuals and entities that elect not to provide certain health care services.

Proposed law allows a person, employer, or public or private entity to elect not to provide certain health care services that violate its conscience. Further protects persons from punitive measures such as liability, discrimination, adverse employment action, prejudice, or general damage for refusing to provide certain health care services.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not prevent any employer or patient from inquiring whether a person, employer, or entity declines to participate in certain health care services.

Proposed law provides that when a patient requests certain health care services, a person, employer, or entity shall identify in writing, its declination to provide those services in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall not be construed to relieve any health care provider from providing emergency care as required by law.

Proposed law defines "conscience" as a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.

Proposed law defines "health care service" to include, but not be limited to, abortion, dispensation of drugs affecting the reproductive process, artificial insemination, sterilization, artificial reproductive technologies, human embryonic stem cell research, human embryo cloning, fetal experimentation, euthanasia, or physician-assisted suicide.

Proposed law requires that a suit brought for a violation of proposed law be in accordance with R.S. 23:303.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.9)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the

original bill.

1. Provides for an employer or patient to inquire whether a person, employer, or entity declines to participate in certain health care services due to an objection of conscience.
2. Adds a procedure for the notification of a declination of services.
3. Changes the definition of "conscience" to a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.
4. Changes the definition of "health care service" to an illustrative, but not exclusive list of certain procedures.
5. Requires suits for a violation of proposed law to be brought in accordance with R.S. 23:303.